

I CLAIM:

1. (Currently Amended) An external alert device for detecting the presence of fecal matter comprising:

a an adhesive disposable pad having an aperture;
an a pH activated alarm attached to said pad;
a first and second conductor extending from said aperture through said disposable pad to said alarm;
a plug,
a third and fourth conductor on said plug, said plug removably secured to said pad at said aperture wherein said third and fourth conductor each comprise a pair of spaced apart conductive rings.

2. (Original) The alert device of claim 1 wherein said alarm emits an audible alarm.

3. (Original) The alert device of claim 1 wherein said alarm emits a visible alarm.

4. (Original) The alert device of claim 1 wherein said alarm emits a tactile alarm.

5. (Original) The alert device of claim 1 wherein said alarm transmits a signal to a remote location.

6. (Previously Presented) The alert device of claim 1 wherein said plug is secured in said aperture by mating threads.

7. (Previously Presented) The alert device of claim 1 wherein said pad is a flexible, elastomeric material.

8. (Original) The alert device of claim 1 further comprising an inflatable cuff encircling said plug.

9. (Cancelled)

10. (Previously Presented) The alert device of claim 1 further including an absorbent sleeve disposed about said plug.

11. (Original) The alert device of claim 1 wherein said plug includes a filter.

12. (Previously Presented) The alert device of claim 1 further comprising an adhesive ring attached to one side of the pad.

13-20. (Cancelled)

21. (Previously presented) The alert device of claim 1, wherein the third and fourth conductors each comprise

a lower ring, an upper ring and an upwardly extending section extending between the upper and lower rings.

22. (Previously Presented) The alert device of claim 21, wherein the plug comprises a lumen having an outer surface and an inner surface,

the upper ring extending about the outer surface and the lower ring extending about the inner surface.

23. (Previously Presented) The alert device of claim 21, wherein the first and second conductor each comprise a first section extending from a circuit board to the aperture and a ring extending around the aperture.

24. (Currently Amended) An external alert device for detecting the presence of fecal matter comprising:

a an adhesive pad having an aperture;

an a pH activated alarm attached to said pad;

a first and second conductor extending from said aperture through said pad to said alarm;

a plug,

a third and fourth conductor on said plug, said plug removably secured to said pad at said aperture wherein said third and fourth conductor each comprise a pair of spaced apart conductive rings, wherein the first conductor is electrically ~~conducted~~ connected to the third conductor and the second conductor is electrically ~~conducted~~ connected to the fourth conductor when the plug is placed with in the aperture.